

“Japan for Christ.”

MRS. C. B. PERKINS.



WHEN the little brown men of the East won victory after victory in their struggle with Russia, the world echoed their shout of “Banzai Nippon,” “Hurrah for Japan!” A louder and more important cry sounds in the ears of the Christian world to-day. “Japan for Christ!” The mighty empire that now is, and the still mightier empire that is to be, must be won for the King of kings. And in this conquest America has a double duty. While sending the Gospel message generously and gladly to the Japanese in their island home, we must not be unmindful of those who, in the Providence of God, are gathering within our own limits.

What should be done for the Japanese in America? The question may be answered, in part, by the story of what is being done for Japanese and Korean women and girls in San Francisco by the Woman's Home Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

The work began under the management of a local committee, in 1901, in a humble home of two meagerly furnished rooms, with a deaconess, Miss Lena B. Gray, as missionary.

Its influence for good soon became so appreciated by the Japanese people that larger quarters were sought in July, 1902, and a lower flat of four small rooms on Pine street, opposite the Japanese church, was secured. This proved to be verily a haven of rest for those needing sheltering care, and the only place that many could truly call “home” in Christian America. Here the missionary held women's Bible meetings, and a primary school for the little people. She also visited the women in their homes and conducted once a month a woman's Bible meeting in Oakland.

The following year another move was nec-



FRIENDS AND PUPILS IN NEW

essary, as the property changed hands, and the humble little flat gave place to the modern apartment house. A cottage of seven rooms, a block further out, was rented, and a school was conducted in a room on St. Mary's street.

The second Pine street home was soon overcrowded. Here our permanent family started with a child sent from Los Angeles, who needed the guiding and protecting care of a mother heart. At this time Miss Gray, after faithful and earnest work, began to fail in health and had to return to her home. Miss Margarita J. Lake, an experienced worker among the Orientals, took her place. Other girls came to make their permanent home un-



PANESE HOME, SAN FRANCISCO.

der the sheltering roof until the little cottage gave place, in August, 1903, to a more pretentious home of eight large rooms at 1241 Bush street.

Responsibility, financial and otherwise, increased with the increase of accommodations. The school on St. Mary's street was abandoned and a school in the Home was established, where not only the little people and girls of the Home were taught, but girls domiciled in families throughout the city came, thus making many grades necessary, and the services of a first-class teacher. The missionary, Miss Lake, added another department to the work by visiting with her interpreter each

incoming steamer from the Orient, as well as those from the Sound, talking with the Japanese women on board, and taking unprotected girls to the Home (with the cordial assistance of government immigration officers), thereby saving them from unknown but very real dangers. Eternity alone will reveal the harvest of this seed-sowing.

Long before the two years' lease of the Bush street Home had expired, the eight-roomed house was crowded to its utmost capacity, the family at one time numbering thirty-two. The committee came to the conclusion that it would be a wise business proposition to purchase a Home, if a suitable one could be found, and borrow the money with which to pay for it, as the interest on the loan would amount to far less than rent. Much prayer, time and energy were expended to find the one most suited to the needs, but it was finally found at 2025 Pine street, a house of eighteen rooms. Every room in the house has the sun. The lower floor is used for school rooms, store room, kitchen and dining-rooms. The second for parlors, office, sitting-room and children's bed and play rooms, and the upper floor for dormitories.

The first of November, 1905, found the family happily domiciled in their permanent home, and California Methodism rejoices with the Committee in its good fortune. Many things are needed to complete the requisites of a comfortable home, and many will deem it a privilege to assist in this practical way. Others will help bear the responsibility of the burden of debt and congratulate the Church upon securing a real Home for the girls who need the shelter and training that they could receive nowhere else—the girls who will be, no doubt, wives and mothers of the new Japan.

*Annual scholarships in the Home are \$60.
Partial scholarships may be taken.*

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